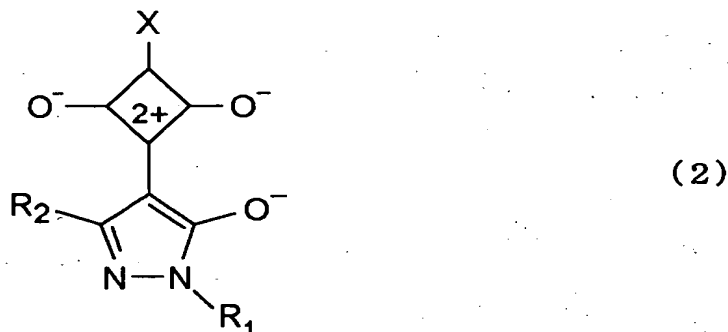


What is claimed is:

1. A squarylium-metal chelate compound represented by following Structural Formula (1):

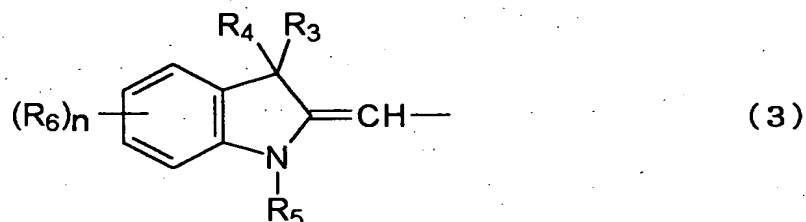


wherein M represents a metal atom capable of coordinating; "a", "b" and "c" each represents a squarylium dye ligand represented by following Structural Formula (2), where "a" is different from "b"; and "c" may be the same as or different from "a" or "b"; and "m" represents 0 or 1:



wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and each represents one of an alkyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group and a heterocyclic group, each of which may be substituted; and X represents one of an aryl group which may be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may be substituted and $Z_3=CH-$, wherein Z_3 represents a heterocyclic group which may be substituted.

2. The squarylium-metal chelate compound according to claim 1, wherein X is represented by following Structural Formula (3):



wherein R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, where R_3 and R_4 may be taken together with an adjacent carbon atom to form a ring; R_5 represents one of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may be substituted, an aralkyl group which may be substituted and an aryl group which may be substituted; R_6 represents one of a halogen atom, an alkyl group which may be substituted, an aralkyl group which may be substituted, an aryl group which may be substituted, a nitro group, a cyano group and an alkoxy group; and "n" represents an integer from 0 to 4, wherein, when n is 2, 3 or 4, R_6 may be the same as or different from each other and adjacent two " R_6 "s may be taken together with an adjacent carbon atom to form a ring.

3. The squarylium-metal chelate compound according to claim 1, wherein M is a trivalent metal.

4. The squarylium-metal chelate compound according to

claim 3, wherein the trivalent metal is aluminum.

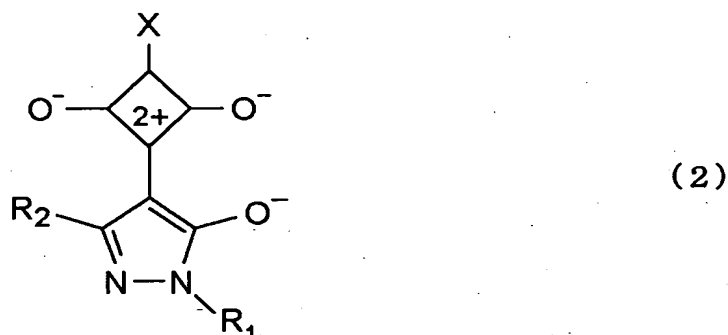
5. The squarylium-metal chelate compound according to claim 1, which is for use as a recording material in an optical recording medium.

6. The optical recording medium comprising:
a substrate; and
at least one recording layer arranged on or above the substrate,

wherein the recording layer comprises two or more different squarylium-metal chelate compounds represented by following Structural Formula (1):

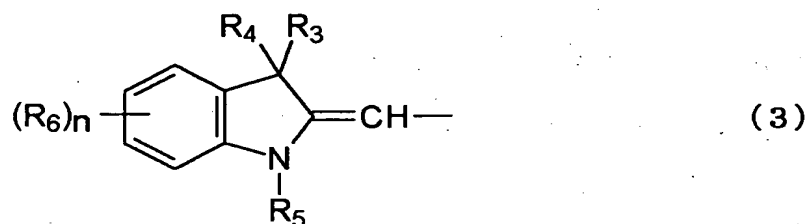


wherein M represents a metal atom capable of coordinating; "a", "b" and "c" each represent a squarylium dye ligand represented by following Structural Formula (2), where "a" is different from "b"; and "c" may be the same as or different from "a" or "b"; and "m" represents 0 or 1:



wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and each represents one of an alkyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group and a heterocyclic group, each of which may be substituted; and X represents one of an aryl group which may be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may be substituted and $Z_3=CH-$, wherein Z_3 represents a heterocyclic group which may be substituted.

7. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein X is represented by following Structural Formula (3):



wherein R_3 and R_4 are the same or different and each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, where R_3 and R_4 may be taken together with an adjacent carbon atom to form a ring; R_5 represents one of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may be substituted, an aralkyl group which may be substituted and an aryl group which may be substituted; R_6 represents one of a halogen

atom, an alkyl group which may be substituted, an aralkyl group which may be substituted, an aryl group which may be substituted, a nitro group, a cyano group and an alkoxy group; and "n" represents an integer from 0 to 4, wherein, when n is 2, 3 or 4, "R₆"s may be the same or different and adjacent two "R₆"s may be taken together with an adjacent carbon atom to form a ring.

8. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein M is a trivalent metal.

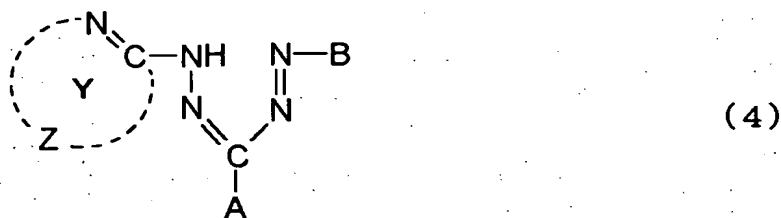
9. The optical recording medium according to claim 8, wherein the trivalent metal is aluminum.

10. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the recording layer comprises two to six different types of the squarylium-metal chelate compounds.

11. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the total content of the squarylium-metal chelate compounds in the recording layer is from 50% by weight to 100% by weight.

12. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the recording layer further comprises at least one formazan-metal chelate compound comprising a metal and a

formazan compound represented by following Structural Formula (4):



wherein Ring Y represents a nitrogen-containing 5-membered or 6-membered ring which may be substituted and which may be condensed with another ring; Z represents an atomic group constituting Ring Y; and A and B each represent a substituent.

13. The optical recording medium according to claim 12, wherein the weight ratio of the squarylium-metal chelate compounds to the formazan-metal chelate compound is from 90:10 to 50:50.

14. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the recording material has a thermal decomposition temperature of from 200°C to 350°C.

15. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the recording layer has a thickness of from 100 angstroms to 5000 angstroms (from 10 nm to 500 nm).

16. The optical recording medium according to claim 6,

wherein the recording medium performs recording and reproducing by the application of light with a wavelength of 645 nm to 675 nm and the recording layer itself has a refractive index n of 1.5 to 3.0 and an extinction coefficient k of 0.02 to 0.3 within a wavelength region ± 5 nm of the light for recording and reproducing.

17. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the substrate has at least one of a groove and a pit on its surface.

18. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, further comprising a reflective layer on or above the recording layer.

19. The optical recording medium according to claim 18, further comprising a protective layer on or above the reflective layer.

20. The optical recording medium according to claim 6, which is for use in any one of CD-R, DVD+R and DVD-R media.